

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05241 132311Z
ACTION SS-25

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CI, PGOV, SHUM
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

1. AT A LUNCHEON TODAY, JULY 13, PDC PRESIDENT ANDRES ZALDIVAR TOOK ME ASIDE AND INFORMED ME OF THE FOLLOWING: ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCE, NOT IDENTIFIED, MANUEL CONTRERAS HAS TOLD PINOCHET THAT THE ONLY WAY TO HANDLE THE LETELIER PROBLEM IS TO DISCREDIT TOWNLEY AND THAT THE MAIN TECHNIQUE FOR DOING THIS WILL BE TO DEPICT TOWNLEY AS A CIA AGENT. ACCORDING TO ZALDIVAR'S SOURCES, CONTRERAS HAS CONVINCED PINOCHET THAT TOWNLEY IN FACT WORKED FOR THE CIA IN 1971/72. ZALDIVAR ADDED THAT THE CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT TOWNLEY HAS ALREADY BEGUN, NOTING A TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH MARIANA CALLEJAS THE EVENING OF JULY 9 WHICH LOOKED TO MANY PEOPLE AS AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW HER AS AN UNTRUST-WORTHY SORT.

2. ZALDIVAR SAID THAT HIS SOURCE REPORTS THAT CONTRERAS HAS ALSO TOLD PINOCHET THAT WITHOUT THE TWO MISSING CUBANS THERE IS NO CASE IN THE COURTS AND THAT HE,
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CONTRERAS, WILL MAKE SURE THEY DO NOT APPEAR. CONTRERAS, THE SOURCE SAYS, CLAIMS TO HAVE A PROMISE OF COOPERATION FROM THE BRAZILIAN SECRET SERVICE TO KEEP THE TWO UNDER COVER. I ASKED ZALDIVAR WHETHER THIS MEANS THAT PAZ AND SUAREZ ARE IN BRAZIL; HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW, NOR DOES HIS SOURCE. I URGED HIM TO GET WHATEVER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HE COULD ON THE TWO MISSING CUBANS AND HE

PROMISED TO DO SO.

3. THIS INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE IS PART OF A LARGER SURVIVAL STRATEGY THAT, ACCORDING TO ZALDIVAR'S SOURCE, CONTRERAS HAS PROPOSED TO PINOCHET. WE WILL BE REPORTING THE OTHER ELEMENTS BY SEPARATE EXDIS CABLE FOR SOMEWHAT BROADER DISTRIBUTION, AS THEY DO NOT RELATE DIRECTLY TO THE LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION.
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